

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMCONSUL IZMIR
INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, GR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH TREATMENT OF GREEK MINORITY IN TURKEY

REF: (A) STATE 41937, (B) ATHENS 1392

1. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF INFORMAL PAPER PRE-
SENTED BY GREEK AMB ALEXANDRAKIS TO COUNSELOR NIMETZ FEB
15 AS REPORTED REF A. PAPER SUGGESTS HUMAN RIGHTS CONDI-
TIONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GREEK EMIGRATION FROM TURKEY,
AND NOTES THAT QUOTE IN 1924 THERE WERE 111,700 GREEK
ORTHODOX PERSONS LIVING IN TURKEY. TODAY THERE ARE
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APPROXIMATELY 13,500.UNQUOTE. THEREFORE, QUOTE IN ORDER
TO UNDERSTAND SUCH A WHOLESAL DEPARTURE OF PERSONS FROM
THEIR ANCESTRAL HOMES, THE LIVING CONDITIONS . . . MUST
BE EXAMINED IN TERMS OF NECESSITIES AND FREEDOMS BASIC
TO THE GROWTH OF ANY COMMUNITY. UNQUOTE. PAPER COMMENTS
ON FOUR PRINCIPAL HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, AS FOLLOWS:

A. "RIGHTS OF OWNERSHIP"

-- REAL ESTATE: REQUIREMENT THAT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS "APPEAR IN 'MANIFEST OF 1936'" EFFECTIVELY DENIES CLEAR TITLE TO MINORITY INSTITUTIONS. DEVELOPMENT OF MINORITY REAL ESTATE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN, AND PROPERTY THEREFORE

REMAINS UNDEVELOPED.

-- CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS: DESPITE PROTECTION OF LAUSANNE TREATY, TURKS LEVY 5 PER CENT TAX ON GROSS INCOME OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, AND ARE SUING TO REMOVE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS (NOTE: PRESUMABLY FOR NON-PAYMENT).

B. "RIGHTS OF EDUCATION"

-- TURKISH AUTHORITIES HAVE CUT BACK HOURS OF TEACHING GREEK, REFUSED TO APPOINT PRINCIPALS IN THREE GREEK HIGH SCHOOLS, AND REFUSED TO PERMIT GREEK-SPEAKING ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS FROM OUTSIDE GREECE (WITH ID CARDS MARKED "CHRISTIAN" RATHER THAN GREEK ORTHODOX) TO ENROLL IN GREEK SCHOOLS.

-- DESPITE LAUSANNE TREATY, SCHOOLS MUST PAY PROPERTY TAX OR 5 PER CENT OF GROSS INCOME, CANNOT MAKE REPAIRS COSTING OVER 250 TL.

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C. "RELIGIOUS FREEDOM"

-- TURKS REFUSE TO ISSUE PASSPORTS TO GREEK ORTHODOX PRELATES (WHICH PREVENTED METROPOLITAN OF STAVROUPOLIS FROM VISITING SICK MOTHER OR ATTENDING HER FUNERAL IN 1977).

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-- "FIERY" NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS LED TO "DEMONSTRATION BY FANATIC MOB" IN COURT OF PATRIARCHATE ON APRIL 25, 1977.

D. "PERSONAL FREEDOM"

-- MANY GREEKS ARE "DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHT TO TRAVEL" OR INTIMIDATED WHEN THEY EXERCISE IT.

-- PLAINCLOTHES POLICEMEN ASK FOR IDENTITY CARDS AND INTERROGATE THOSE LEAVING GREEK CONGEN IN ISTANBUL.

2. AS NOTED REF A, DEPT IS POUCHING COPIES OF INFORMAL PAPER TO ACTION ADDRESSEES. WE ANTICIPATE COPIES OF PAPER MAY ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO CONGRESS. WHILE WE DO NOT

PLAN TO MAKE ANY REPLY TO PAPER, DEPT WOULD BE INTERESTED
IN ANY COMMENTS ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE ON ALLEGATIONS CON-
TAINED THEREIN. VANCE

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